

12 February 1951

Dear Charles:

Thanks very much for remembering me with a copy of your book, "Maneuver in War." I looked through it on the way home and it impresses me as a very valuable reference encyclopedia, which I will fall back on from time to time when I am forced to give a lecture.

I was obliged to take a second hand copy of Koestler's "Darkness at Noon", as they are hard to find now adays. However, I know you will find this book as fascinating as I found it. I think it is the best exposition of the psychology of the old and the new Bolshevik that has ever been written.

An acquaintance of mine who spent eight years in Lubianka Prison tells me that it is accurate in most respects and that the only inaccuracies are due to the fact that the author drew his picture of prison life from his knowledge of the Gestapo, who he claims were far behind the M.V.D. in their technique. He remarked, for instance, that during his entire eight years in Lubianka he was not cognizant of the identity of any human being under the same roof except the officer who interrogated him and the guards who took him to and from interrogations and that it would have been quite impossible to tap messages to adjoining cell mates or in any other way communicate with or identify them.

Before I received your wire [] I had already approached Lucian Truscott, who I think will be a first class organizer. However, he knows nothing about the area and will have to lean on you for both information and guidance. In some ways this will be an advantage as he will not go with a lot of preconceived ideas. I have a spot elsewhere for [] if he is willing to accept it.

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What are the chances of your coming home for a short visit? It would be very profitable for some of our people to have a series of talks with you.

Faithfully,

W. B. Smith

W. B. Smith -

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P.S. We have gotten valuable guidance from the reports you gave me just before I left. The technique of getting these things up is extremely fine.